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***** T O P S E C R E T *****S COPY

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DE RTE #0468 0432226
O 122226Z FEB 75
FM THE SITUATION ROOM //TOHAK 24//

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS
APPLY

TO GOMPERT/BORG/RODMAN FOR THE SECRETARY

T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE CONTAINS CODEWORD VIA BLACK PATCH WH50148

TOHAK 24

FEBRUARY 12, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER
FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM
SUBJECT: EVENING NOTES

COSVN "RESOLUTION" CALLING FOR LIBERATION OF TAY NINH PROVINCE: THE COMMUNISTS HAVE FORMULATED PLANS TO CAPTURE TAY NINH PROVINCE, OR FAILING THAT TO COMPLETELY ISOLATE TAY NINH CITY, [REDACTED] THE PLANS CALL FOR A MAJOR EFFORT WITH MAIN AND LOCAL FORCES SUPPORTED BY ARMOR AND ARTILLERY SOMETIME IN FEBRUARY. THE COMMUNISTS HAVE BEEN SHIFTING SOME OF THEIR MAIN FORCE COMBAT UNITS INTO TAY NINH PROVINCE, BUT THEY ARE NOT YET UP TO THE TWO-DIVISION STRENGTH THE REPORT CLAIMS WILL BE USED IN THE ATTACKS. GOVERNMENT FORCES CAN BE EXPECTED TO MOUNT A STRONG DEFENSE FOR TAY NINH PROVINCE.

25X1

DIA, OSD reviews
completed.

SOVIET ARMS NEGOTIATIONS WITH INDIA: AN INDIAN F-CLASS LONG-RANGE DIESEL-POWERED SUBMARINE -- THE EIGHTH RECEIVED FROM THE USSR -- WILL VISIT LE HAVRE, FRANCE, MARCH 2-6 [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] HER ARRIVAL IN BOMBAY, WHICH PROBABLY WILL NOT BE BEFORE JUNE, WILL COMPLETE THE DELIVERY OF MAJOR SOVIET NAVAL UNITS UNDER KNOWN CONTRACTS. FUTURE INDIAN NAVAL REQUIREMENTS INCLUDE LAND-BASED MARITIME RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT, REPLACEMENTS FOR ANTISUBMARINE WARFARE AIRCRAFT, GUIDED-MISSILE BOATS, A COMMAND-AND-CONTROL SHIP, AND A LARGE ANTISUBMARINE SHIP. ALTHOUGH SEVERAL TRIPS TO MOSCOW BY TOP INDIAN DEFENSE OFFICIALS REPORTEDLY HAVE NOT BEEN PRODUCTIVE, DEFENSE MINISTER GRECHKO'S VISIT TO NEW DELHI FEBRUARY 24-26 MAY PROVIDE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR RE-NEWED NEGOTIATIONS. THE VISIT IS EVIDENTLY IN RESPONSE TO AN INVITATION THE INDIAN DEFENSE MINISTER MADE LAST JULY.

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SECFL, JANKA, SDO

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PAGE 01

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THE WASHINGTON STAR NEWS:

JEREMIAH O'LEARY WRITES THAT THE AMERICAN NUCLEAR AIRCRAFT CARRIER ENTERPRISE IS NOW INVOLVED IN A MAJOR MERCY OPERATION AT THE STORM-STRIKEN INDIAN OCEAN ISLAND OF MAURITIUS, ACCORDING TO NAVY SOURCES.

EDWARD MORTIMER WRITES FROM LONDON THAT VERY FEW PEOPLE WOULD HAVE THOUGHT SIX MONTHS AGO THAT THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY, SUPPOSEDLY THE GARDIAN OF BRITISH TRADITIONS, WOULD BE THE FIRST MAJOR PARTY IN EUROPE TO CHOOSE A WOMAN AS ITS LEADER, AND THUS ITS CANDIDATE FOR PRIME MINISTER. SOME COMMENTATORS ARE COMPARING HER ELECTION TO THE NOMINATION OF SENATOR GOLDWATER IN 1964 AND PREDICTING DISASTER FOR THE PARTY BECAUSE HER STYLE AND OPINIONS, THEY SAY, ARE UNACCEPTABLE TO THE MODERATE VOTERS.

VERNON GUIDERY WRITES THAT THE DOD HAS AWARDED TWO CONTRACTS TOTALING \$169.2 MILLION TO BELL HELICOPTER CO. FOR TRAINING THE IRANIAN ARMED FORCES IN HELICOPTER COMBAT FLYING AND MAINTENANCE.

RAYMOND PRICE WRITES THAT CHUCK COLSON ALWAYS DID HAVE A WAY OF STIRRING UP THE WATERS. NOW, NO SOONER IS HE OUT OF THE POKEY THAN HE'S ON ALL THREE NETWORKS TALKING ABOUT HIS PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH THEN-PRESIDENT NIXON, RELATING NIXON'S COMMENTS ABOUT THE RESPECTIVE CAPACITIES OF MESSRS. FORD AND KISSINGER, AND DESCRIBING THE CONTENTS OF A TOP-SECRET CABLE HE CLAIMS TO HAVE SEEN FROM KISSINGER TO NIXON DURING THE VIETNAM NEGOTIATIONS. HE DOESN'T KNOW HOW MUCH OF THE COLSON ACCOUNT IS TRUE. NEVERTHELESS, A FEW WARNING FLAGS OUGHT TO BE HOISTED. ONE WARNING FLAG CONCERNS THE NIXON-KISSINGER RELATIONSHIP. NIXON GENUINELY LIKED, RESPECTED AND ADMIRER HENRY KISSINGER WHEN THEY WORKED TOGETHER, AND HE STILL DOES. HE WOULD NOT HAVE REPOSED THE TRUST IN KISSINGER THAT HE DID, AND WOULD NOT HAVE MADE HIM SECRETARY OF STATE, IF IT HAD BEEN OTHERWISE. AS ANYONE WHO HAS WORKED WITH KISSINGER KNOWS, HOWEVER, HENRY CAN BE DIFFICULT. HIS TEMPER IS LEGENDARY. HIS JEALOUSIES ARE PERVERSE, AND OFTEN PETTY. HIS EGO NEEDS CONSTANT ATTENTION - NOT JUST DAILY, BUT HOURLY. BUT FOR ALL THIS, HE IS AN IMMENSELY VALUABLE NATIONAL RESOURCE. NIXON RECOGNIZED ALL THIS, AND HE WAS WILLING TO DO WHAT WAS NECESSARY TO KEEP HENRY HAPPY - AND TO KEEP HIM CARRYING OUT THE NIXON POLICIES WITH THE CONSUMMATE SKILL THAT BECAME THE KISSINGER TRADEMARK. NIXON WAS WILLING TO ACCEPT THIS, AS LONG AS THAT WAS THE PRICE OF THE ACHIEVEMENT. CONTRARY TO THE POPULAR IMPRESSION, HE CARED MORE ABOUT THE ACHIEVEMENT THAN ABOUT THE CREDIT. NIXON WAS VERY MUCH THE ARCHITECT OF HIS OWN FOREIGN POLICIES, AND THE CARE AND SPIRITUAL FEEDING OF HENRY KISSINGER, WHICH NIXON

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PAGE 02

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HAD DEVELOPED TO A FINE ART, WAS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE EXECUTION OF THOSE POLICIES. IT WOULD BE REMARKABLE IF HE DID NOT HAVE DOUBTS WHETHER A SUCCESSOR WOULD BE ABLE TO PICK UP IN MID-STREAM AND CARRY IT ON AS WELL.

A STAR EDITORIAL ON "THE ERITREAN FIGHTING" SAYS IT IS DIFFICULT AT THIS DISTANCE TO MAKE AN ACCURATE ASSESSMENT OF WHAT IS GOING ON IN ERITREA. ALL ONE CAN SAY AT THIS DISTANCE IS THAT HEAVY FIGHTING HAS - AND PERHAPS IS - TAKING PLACE THERE BETWEEN SECESSIONIST ERITREAN GUERRILLAS, MOST OF WHOM ARE MOSLEMS, AND CHRISTIAN ETHIOPIA'S REGULAR ARMY. THERE IS NOT MUCH NEW IN THIS. BUT THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE PRESENT SITUATION IS HEIGHTENED BY TWO ELEMENTS: THE INTERNAL WEAKNESS OF ETHIOPIA'S "SOCIALIST" JUNTA OF FACELESS YOUNG MILITARY OFFICERS, AND THE STRENGTH OF THE GUERRILLAS, WHO IN RECENT MONTHS HAVE RECEIVED SOMETHING LIKE \$5 MILLION IN MILITARY AID FROM LIBYA, ANOTHER FORMER ITALIAN COLONY THAT HAPPENS TO BE BOTH OIL-RICH AND AGGRESSIVELY ANTI-ZIONIST. IN ALL THIS, THE U.S. IS LEFT, AS USUAL, PRETTY MUCH IN THE MIDDLE. KAGNEW STATION, OUR COMMUNICATIONS BASE OUTSIDE ASMARA, NO LONGER IS ESSENTIAL TO OUR NATIONAL SECURITY. RELATIONS BETWEEN THIS COUNTRY AND THE ETHIOPIAN JUNTA HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT CLOUDED SINCE THE MASS EXECUTIONS THAT FOLLOWED THE DETHRONEMENT OF THE EMPEROR. PROBABLY THE WISEST COURSE WOULD BE TO CONTINUE LIMITED ARMS SHIPMENTS TO ETHIOPIA WHILE PUSHING HARD FOR A CEASE-FIRE AND A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT OF THE ERITREAN ISSUE. WHAT IS IMPORTANT NOW IS TO END THE FIGHTING AND PRESERVE TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ETHIOPIA..

YOU ARE PICTURED ON PAGE A-1 WITH SADAT AT SADAT'S REST HOUSE ON THE NILE. TAKE ARTICLE ACCOMPANYING THE PHOTO SAYS THAT TODAY YOU PRESENTED PRESIDENT SADAT CLOSE TO A DOZEN SPECIFIC ISRAELI DEMANDS FOR ENDING THE ARABIS ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL.

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PAGE 03

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